What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of operating a lottery, comprising the steps of:

2   (a) receiving a result of a lottery drawing;

3   (b) comparing said result to a plurality of stored lottery entries;

4   (c) if said result corresponds to one of said plurality of stored lottery entries, identifying said one

5   entry as a winning lottery entry;

6   (d) identifying at least one non-winning lottery entry from said plurality of stored lottery entries;

7   (e) repeating said steps (a), (b), (c) and (d) for at least one subsequent lottery drawing until said

8   at least one non-winning lottery entry is identified as a winning lottery entry.

1   2.   A method in accordance with claim 1 and further including the step of storing with each

2   of said plurality of stored lottery entries a status, said status indicating whether the lottery entry

3   is active or inactive.

1   3.   A method in accordance with claim 2 wherein said active status indicates a non-winning

2   lottery entry eligible for entry into subsequent lottery drawings, and said inactive status indicates

3   a winning lottery entry ineligible for entry into subsequent lottery drawings.

1   4.   A method in accordance with claim 1 and further including storing with each winning

2   lottery entry a winning date and a prize value.

1   5.   A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said winning lottery entry includes a

2   lottery number selected by a player.

1   6.   A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said winning lottery entry includes a

2   lottery number selected by a lottery authority.

1   7.   Apparatus for operating a lottery, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory connected to said processor, said memory storing

4   a result of a lottery drawing, and

5   a plurality of stored lottery entries;

6   said processor operative to

7   (a) identify, if said result corresponds to one of said plurality of stored lottery entries, said

8   one of said plurality of stored lottery entries as a winning lottery entry,

9   (b) identify at least one non-winning lottery entry from said plurality of stored lottery

10 entries, and

11   (c) repeat operations (a) and (b) for at least one result of a subsequent lottery drawing

12 until said at least one non-winning lottery entry is identified as a winning lottery entry.

1   8.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 7 wherein said processor is further operative to store

2   with each of said plurality of stored lottery entries a status, said status indicating whether a

3   lottery entry is active or inactive.

1   9.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 8 wherein said active status indicates a non-winning

2   lottery entry eligible for entry into future lottery drawings, and said inactive status indicates a

3   winning lottery entry ineligible for entry into future lottery drawings.

1   10.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 7 wherein said processor is further operative to store

2   with each winning lottery entry a winning date and a prize value.

1   11.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 7 wherein said winning lottery entry includes a

2   lottery number selected by a player.

1 12. Apparatus in accordance with claim 7 wherein said winning lottery entry includes a
2 lottery number selected by a lottery authority.

1 13. Apparatus for operating a lottery, comprising:
2   first means for receiving a result of a lottery drawing;
3   second means for comparing said result to a plurality of stored lottery entries;
4   third means, if said result matches one of said plurality of stored lottery entries, for
5 identifying said one of said plurality of stored lottery entries as a winning lottery entry; and
6   fourth means for identifying at least one non-winning lottery entry from said plurality of
7 stored lottery entries;
8   said first, second, third and fourth means continuing to operate for at least one subsequent
9 lottery drawing until said at least one non-winning lottery entry is identified as a winning lottery
10 entry.

1 14. A computer program product, comprising:
2   a computer useable medium having program code thereon for operating a lottery, said
3 program code comprising:
4   first program code for receiving a result of a lottery drawing;
5   second program code for comparing said result to a plurality of stored lottery entries;
6   third program code, if said result matches one of said plurality of stored lottery entries,
7 for identifying said one of said plurality of stored lottery entries as a winning lottery entry; and
8   fourth program code for identifying at least one non-winning lottery entry from said
9 plurality of stored lottery entries;
10   said first, second, third and fourth program code continuing to operate for at least one
11 subsequent lottery drawing until said at least one non-winning lottery entry is identified as a
12 winning lottery entry.

1 15. A method for processing lottery entries usable in a plurality of lottery drawings,
2 comprising the steps of:
3   receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry;

4   receiving with said request an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered into a

5 plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a winner; and

6   storing said lottery entry.

1 16. A method in accordance with claim 15 and further including the step of charging a fee for

2 said lottery entry, said fee based at least in part on said indicator.

1 17. A method in accordance with claim 15 and further including the steps of:

2   associating with said lottery entry a lottery ticket number; and

3   storing said lottery ticket number with said lottery entry.

1 18. Apparatus for processing lottery entries usable in a plurality of lottery drawings,

2 comprising:

3   a processor;

4   a memory connected to said processor;

5   said processor operative to

6   receive a lottery entry, and

7   receive with said lottery entry an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered

8 into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a

9 winner, and

10   store said lottery entry in said memory.

1 19. Apparatus in accordance with claim 18, said processor further operative to calculate a fee

2 for said lottery entry, said fee based at least in part on said indicator.

1 20. Apparatus in accordance with claim 18, said processor further operative to:

2   associate with said lottery entry a lottery ticket number; and

3   store said lottery ticket number with said lottery entry in said memory.

1 21. Apparatus for processing lottery entries usable in a plurality of lottery drawings,

2 comprising:

3   means for receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry;

4   means for receiving with said request an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered

5   into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a

6   winner; and

7   means for storing said lottery entry.

1   22.   A computer program product, comprising:

2   a computer useable medium having program code thereon for processing lottery entries, said

3   program code comprising:

4   program code for receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry;

5   program code for receiving with said request an indicator that said lottery entry is to be

6   entered into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as

7   a winner; and

8   program code for storing said lottery entry.

1   23.   A method for processing lottery entries usable in a plurality of lottery drawings,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry;

4   receiving with said request an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered into a

5   plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a winner; and

6   transmitting said request with said indicator to a remote lottery authority.

1   24.   A method in accordance with claim 23 and further including the step of receiving from

2   said remote lottery authority data confirming said lottery entry.

1   25.   A method in accordance with claim 24 wherein said data includes a lottery ticket number;

2   and further including the step of

3   storing said lottery ticket number.

1   26.   A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein said step of receiving a request to

2   purchase a lottery entry includes receiving a sense mark form.

1 27. A method in accordance with claim 26 wherein said step of receiving with said request an
2 indicator includes receiving said indicator on said sense mark form.

1 28. A method in accordance with claim 23 and further including the step of outputting a
2 lottery ticket identifying said lottery entry.

1 29. Apparatus for processing lottery entries usable in a plurality of lottery drawings,
2 comprising:
3   a processor;
4   a memory connected to said processor and storing
5   a request to purchase a lottery entry,
6   an indicator, with said request, that said lottery entry is to be entered into a
7 plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a winner; and
8   said processor operative to
9   transmit said request with said indicator to a remote lottery authority.

1 30. Apparatus in accordance with claim 29, said processor further operative to receive from
2 said remote lottery authority data confirming said lottery entry.

1 31. Apparatus in accordance with claim 30 wherein said data includes a lottery ticket
2 number; said processor further operative to
3   store said lottery ticket number in said memory.

1 32. Apparatus in accordance with claim 29, and further comprising:
2   means for reading a sense mark form connected to said processor; and
3   said request to purchase a lottery entry including data on a sense mark form.

1 33. Apparatus in accordance with claim 32 wherein said indicator includes data on said sense
2 mark form.

1   34.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 29 wherein said processor is further operative to

2   generate a signal for printing a lottery ticket identifying said lottery entry.

1   35.   Apparatus for processing lottery entries usable in a plurality of lottery drawings,

2   comprising:

3   means for receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry;

4   means for receiving with said request an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered

5   into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a

6   winner; and

7   means for transmitting said request with said indicator to a remote lottery authority.

1   36.   A computer program product, comprising:

2   a computer useable medium having program code thereon for processing lottery entries, said

3   program code comprising:

4   program code for receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry;

5   program code for receiving with said request an indicator that said lottery entry is to be

6   entered into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as

7   a winner; and

8   program code for transmitting said request with said indicator to a remote lottery

9   authority.

1   37.   A method for generating lottery entries usable in a plurality of lottery drawings,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry;

4   receiving with said request an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered into a

5   plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a winner;

6   generating a ticket number for said lottery entry to validate said lottery entry and said

7   indicator; and

8   transmitting said ticket number to a remote terminal.

1 38. A method in accordance with claim 37 and further including the step of storing said
2 lottery entry for use in at least one lottery drawing.

1 39. A method in accordance with claim 38 wherein said storing step includes storing said
2 lottery entry with a plurality of lottery entries to be entered into a plurality of lottery drawings.

1 40. A method in accordance with claim 38 and further including the steps of:
2 generating a start date for said lottery entry; and
3 storing said start date with said lottery entry.

1 41. A method in accordance with claim 37 wherein said request further includes a lottery
2 game type.

1 42. A method in accordance with claim 37 and further including the steps of:
2 generating a price for said lottery entry; and
3 transmitting said price to said remote terminal.

1 43. Apparatus for generating lottery entries usable in a plurality of lottery drawings,
2 comprising:
3 a processor;
4 a memory connected to said processor and storing
5 a request to purchase a lottery entry, and
6 an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered into a plurality of lottery
7 drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a winner;
8 said processor operative to
9 generate a ticket number for said lottery entry to validate said lottery entry and
10 said indicator; and
11 transmit said ticket number to a remote terminal.

1 44. Apparatus in accordance with claim 43 wherein said memory further includes a plurality
2 of lottery entries each to be entered into a plurality of lottery drawings.

1   45.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 43 wherein said processor is further operative to:
2   generate a start date for said lottery entry; and
3   store said start date and said lottery entry in said memory.

1   46.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 43 wherein said request further includes a lottery
2   game type.

1   47.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 43 wherein said processor is further operative to:
2   generate a price for said lottery entry; and
3   transmit said price to said remote terminal.

1   48.   Apparatus for generating lottery entries usable in a plurality of lottery drawings,
2   comprising:
3   means for receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry;
4   means for receiving with said request an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered
5   into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a
6   winner;
7   means for generating a ticket number for said lottery entry to validate said lottery entry
8   and said indicator; and
9   means for transmitting said ticket number to a remote terminal.

1   49.   A computer program product, comprising:
2   a computer useable medium having program code thereon for generating lottery entries,
3   said program code comprising:
4   program code for receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry;
5   program code for receiving with said request an indicator that said lottery entry is to be
6   entered into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as
7   a winner;
8   program code for generating a ticket number for said lottery entry to validate said lottery
9   entry and said indicator; and
10   program code for transmitting said ticket number to a remote terminal.

1   50.   A method of pricing a lottery entry, comprising the steps of:

2   receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry, said request including an indicator that

3   said lottery entry is to be entered into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing

4   identifies said lottery entry as a winner;

5   calculating a price for said lottery entry, said price based at least in part on the inclusion

6   of said indicator.

1   51.   A method in accordance with claim 50 wherein said step of calculating a price for said

2   lottery entry includes:

3   determining, for a plurality of potential payouts of said lottery drawing, a total number

4   for said plurality of potential payouts and a value for each of said plurality of potential payouts;

5   determining a probability of each of said plurality of potential payouts for said lottery

6   entry; and

7   calculating said price based at least in part on the results of said determining steps.

1   52.   A method in accordance with claim 50 wherein said calculating step includes calculating

2   said price based at least in part on a potential payout of a first lottery drawing including said

3   lottery entry.

1   53.   A method in accordance with claim 50 wherein said calculating step includes calculating

2   said price based at least in part on a potential average payout of a plurality of lottery drawings.

1   54.   Apparatus for pricing a lottery entry, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory connected to said processor and storing a request to purchase a lottery entry,

4   said request including an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered into a plurality of

5   lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a winner;

6   said processor operative to

7   calculate a price for said lottery entry, said price based at least in part on the

8   inclusion of said indicator, and

9   store said price in said memory.

1   55. Apparatus in accordance with claim 54 wherein said operation of calculating a price for said

2   lottery entry includes the operations of:

3   determining, for a plurality of potential payouts of said lottery drawing, a total number

4   for said plurality of potential payouts and a value for each of said plurality of potential payouts;

5   determining a probability of each of said plurality of potential payouts for said lottery

6   entry; and

7   calculating said price based at least in part on the results of said determining steps.

1   56.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 54 wherein said calculating operation includes

2   calculating said price based at least in part on a potential payout of a first lottery drawing

3   including said lottery entry.

1   57.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 54 wherein said calculating operation includes

2   calculating said price based at least in part on a potential average payout of a plurality of lottery

3   drawings.

1   58.   Apparatus for pricing a lottery entry, comprising:

2   means for receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry, said request including an

3   indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery

4   drawing identifies said lottery entry as a winner;

5   means for calculating a price for said lottery entry, said price based at least in part on the

6   inclusion of said indicator.

1   59.   A computer program product, comprising:

2   a computer useable medium having program code thereon for pricing lottery entries, said

3   program code comprising:

4   program code for receiving a request to purchase a lottery entry, said request

5   including an indicator that said lottery entry is to be entered into a plurality of lottery drawings

6   until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a winner;

7   program code for calculating a price for said lottery entry, said price based at least in part

8   on the inclusion of said indicator.

1   60.   A method of reporting the status of a lottery entry, comprising the steps of:

2   receiving a request for a status of a lottery entry, said lottery entry of a type to be entered

3   into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a

4   winner; and

5   outputting said status of said lottery entry.

1   61.   A method in accordance with claim 60 wherein said status indicates if said lottery entry is

2   a winning lottery entry or a non-winning lottery entry.

1   62.   A method in accordance with claim 61 and further including the step, if said status

2   indicates that said lottery entry is a winning lottery entry, of outputting a drawing date for said

3   winning lottery entry.

1   63.   A method in accordance with claim 60 wherein said outputting step includes transmitting

2   said status over a telephone line.

1   64.   A method in accordance with claim 60 wherein said outputting step includes transmitting

2   said status over a computer data network.

1   65.   Apparatus for reporting the status of a lottery entry, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory connected to said processor and storing a lottery entry of a type to be entered

4   into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry as a

5   winner;

6   said processor operative to

7   receive a request for a status of said lottery entry, and

8   outputting said status of said lottery entry.

1   66.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 65 wherein said status indicates if said lottery entry

2   is a winning lottery entry or a non-winning lottery entry.

1   67.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 66, wherein:

2   said memory further storing a drawing date for said winning lottery entry; and

3   said processor further operative, if said status indicates that said lottery entry is a winning lottery

4   entry, to output said drawing date.

1   68.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 65 and further including an output device connected

2   to said processor for transmitting signals indicative of said status over a telephone line.

1   69.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 65 and further including an output device connected

2   to said processor for transmitting signals indicative of said status over a computer data network.

1   70.   Apparatus for reporting the status of a lottery entry, comprising:

2   means for receiving a request for a status of a lottery entry, said lottery entry of a type to

3   be entered into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said lottery entry

4   as a winner; and

5   means for outputting said status of said lottery entry.

1   71.   A computer program product, comprising:

2   a computer useable medium having program code thereon for reporting a status of lottery

3   entries, said program code comprising:

4   program code for receiving a request for a status of a lottery entry, said lottery entry of a

5   type to be entered into a plurality of lottery drawings until a lottery drawing identifies said

6   lottery entry as a winner; and

7   program code for outputting said status of said lottery entry.

1   72.   A method in accordance with claim 50 and further including the step of generating

2   billing statements for portions of said price whereby said price can be billed in payments.

1   73.   A method in accordance with claim 72 wherein said step of generating billing statements

2   includes generating credit card billing statements.